

ACCESSION PROPOSAL FORM

DEPARTMENT: Visual Art
12/6/06

CURATOR: Jill Moniz

DATE:

TEMPORARY NUMBER: TL06.19

ARTIST/DATES: Bernie Casey (b. 1939)

TITLE/DATE: *A Patch of Purple*, ca 1974

MEDIUM MEASUREMENTS: Acrylic on canvas, 36" H x 24" W

DESCRIPTION: Three patches of purple tints with half-circle shapes painted within the three purple areas.

INSCRIPTIONS: Signed Casey center right quadrant

CONDITION: Stable, overall good condition—needs reframing.

Is conservation needed? Yes ☒ No ☐

Estimate:\$300

SOURCE of OBJECT: Dr. and Mrs. Bernard Kirsch of Culver City, California.



PROVENANCE: Mrs. Kirsch won the painting with a raffle ticket in the 1970s. It was shown at the Ankrum Gallery in the 1970s (657 N. La Cienega Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90069).

RECORDS CHECKED FOR RESTRICTIONS? None noted

CURRENT APPRAISAL(S) AND SOURCE: Charlotte Sherman of the Heritage Gallery stated that she and Jane Ankrum of the Ankrum Gallery tried to sell Casey's work extensively in the 1970s but were unsuccessful. She commented that she would ask \$1,800 initially but after no interest she dropped the price to \$500-\$600, but still was unable to move the work. She found no auction sales for his work and stated that Thelma Harris was only able to sell one of his contemporary works, but they are considerably different than the works from the 1970s. See <http://www.thelmaharrisartgallery.com/> for examples.

RATIONALE FOR ACCESSIONING (how does the object relate to the Mission and Vision of the Museum?):

Bernie Casey has been a working California artist for several decades. He has had over 30 solo exhibitions throughout the world. Casey has 40 pieces in the Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, D.C. His work is also in the collections of Dr. Samella Lewis and Jakob Dirksen of Denmark.

The painting *A Patch of Purple* is representative of Casey's work. He uses vibrant colors and schemes to engage the viewer, and his work demands dialogue. It reflects motion, continuity and above all the essence of a questioning spirit. As songwriter Bill Withers notes, "A Bernie Casey painting is a window into the mind and soul of a man with an uncommon range of gifts and interests. Bernie is tough enough to have enjoyed a stellar professional football career, yet sensitive and vulnerable enough to reveal his inner most self in his paintings."

Purple is both the color of royalty and healing. The painting features two circles, dissected into semicircles, and a semicircle with only the diametrical line of the 2nd half of the semicircle complete.

These geometric shapes are superimposed on wide purple brush strokes of varying shades.

The work is in stable condition, but needs superficial cleaning and reframing. There are visible finger prints on the work. Overall, it is a work that begins a formal relationship with this prolific artist who has been active with the museum since its inception.

Submitted by Dr. Jill Moniz on January 10, 2007.

RECOMMENDED MEANS OF ACCEPTANCE: Gift

CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTANCE:

1. The California African-American Museum must be able to provide proper care and storage for any acquisition under consideration. No object(s) will be considered for acquisition when physical condition exceeds the museum's ability to provide for its care and preservation. Yes ☒ No ☐
2. The items must be relevant to and consistent with the mission, vision, purposes and activities of the California African-American Museum. Yes ☒ No ☐
3. The object(s) must have intrinsic value. Yes ☒ No ☐
4. The object(s) must have free and clear title. Yes ☒ No ☐
5. When possible, acquisitions should be outright and unconditional. Acquisitions should not be burdened by extraordinary intellectual property right encumbrances. Yes ☒ No ☐
6. In most circumstances, the object should have a verifiable record of authenticity and provenance. The provenance of acquired objects will be a matter of public record. Yes ☒ No ☐